

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

In this month of paradox, we thank you, Lord, for the light of Christ at Candlemas when winter is still dark; we celebrate love and Valentines, but pray for courage to face the pain that comes with loving; we rejoice at the exuberance of Shrove Tuesday and ask for sober self-examination as Lent follows. Give us hope this February as we look forward to new life while things remain hidden.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

With the Christmas festivities behind us we are now looking forward to spring, whilst wondering what the winter weather might throw at us first. Repairs on the church roof and tower were due to commence on the 19th January and must be finished by the end of March before the breeding season of our resident bat population starts. Bats are of course a protected species.

Thank you to Adine who has volunteered to clean the church for our services. Thanks also to those who decorated the church for Christmas and who provide flowers for our services throughout the year.

Coffee-mornings are still a highlight and are well-attended. The next one is 6th February at 10:30 at Adine and Kevin's house, 50 Church Lane, Ashbocking. There will be a list of dates available for volunteers to host a coffee morning. If you are willing we would be very grateful to accept your hospitality. The 6th March coffee-morning will be at Linda & John Pollard's, Hawthorns, The Green, but beyond that we are open to offers.....

The confirmation group has begun, led by Catherine Beaumont, with eight people from Ashbocking and Swilland churches. The

group had a very pleasant, meaningful and informative first meeting with homework! Meetings are at Hawthorns, The Green, Ashbocking on Mondays, February 9 and 23, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, all from 7.30 to 9.30pm. The confirmation will be in late May. Please call Catherine Beaumont with any questions on 07801 342336 or email Catherine.beaumont@otleyhall.co.uk

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

During February and March the 9.30 am Holy Communion will be held, in the warm, at Thamaniya, Shop Road.

On Friday 30th January there will be a talk at 7.30pm in the Village Hall by Richard Taylor entitled 'When the Yanks came to Debach'. This is sure to be very interesting. All the documents collected so far on Clopton's heritage will be on display. £2.50 with refreshments For details 'phone 737602.

Five of the new Clopton bellringers have gained certificates —four at Level One and one at Level Two. Well done to all of them. They meet on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm and would welcome anyone who would like to try their hand at bellringing. Ring their very patient teacher David Stanford on 01394 384017 for more details.

The February craft-morning is at the village hall from 10am until 1pm on Wednesday 4th February. The £2 cost covers refreshments and hire of the hall. We need more people to come to make it viable so please come and enjoy a relaxing morning. Details from Della on 737805. Wednesday 18th February is the monthly coffee-morning in the village hall from 10am until noon.

Doris Main

Church cleaning
Church flowers

Audrey and Chris Barker
Beryl Birchmore

OTLEY

First, thank you to the bellringers who rang out the old year and rang in the new, on New Year's Eve. This is a wonderful tradition every year.

The Friendship Club celebrated Christmas twice. 29 people enjoyed a full Christmas lunch, provided by Wendy Marshall and Andy, Christine Gilbert and Betty Rudderham, and children from the primary school came to entertain them. Star of the show was James Free who sang a solo. And on another day the Club had an excellent afternoon tea when John, well-known in the village as the Betterware representative, brought his keyboard and they all sang carols. A good time was had by all.

I have reviewed the church visitors' book for 2014 and found that 54 people signed their names. Visitors came from as far afield as Namibia (Janet Brooker-Smith's son and daughter-in-law), from Germany and Russia (family and friends of Rebecca Upson and Wolfgang Schuster for their wedding), and somebody from Co. Antrim in Northern Ireland. There were cyclists on the sponsored bike ride, a surveyor from the Norfolk and Suffolk Mediaeval Graffiti group, Michael Dann (the conductor of the Discord choir at the time of the concert), members of the Forsdyke family from Yorkshire tracing their ancestors who lived here from 1726 onwards, members of the Wightman family from Dorset researching their family tree and the bellringing connection, a group of friends who attended Bristol University with Phil and Sally Whiffing and were here for a reunion, and Matt Newson, bellringing and celebrating his 21st birthday. So, a variety of reasons to visit the church, old and new.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club will take place on 2nd February when Rodney Tibbs will be speaking about 'Restoring a Cottage Garden'. Rodney is a journalist who has given many talks to garden clubs as he is on the RHS list of recommended speakers.

The monthly coffee-morning will be held on Thursday 26th February at 15 Spring Park, the home of Philip and Betty David.

In the churchyard there are many molehills and the footprints of a large deer, but we are still awaiting the arrival of fieldfares to make a meal of the yew berries.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

13th/14th February "Guys and Dolls" - Junior TOPS

Church cleaning: David and Tess Papworth

Sidepersons' Rota:

1 st February	11.00am Family Service	Karin Upson
15 th February	9.30am Holy Communion	David Papworth
18 th February	9.30am Ash Wednesday	Richard Treloar

OTLEY CHURCH PRESERVATION TRUST

In November 2014 the Trust celebrated its 20th birthday with an informal gathering of past and present trustees. Formed on the 1st November 1994, it was one of the first organisations of its kind in the county. The key to the Trust is that it allows people to contribute to the maintenance of the church fabric in the certain knowledge that the funds cannot be used for other purposes. Support for St Mary's as a feature of the village was reaffirmed in the 2008 Parish Plan, which showed that 62% of residents valued the church as an historic building.

The original trustees were Russell Ling, Geoffrey Mason, Rose Rogerson, Ann Baker and Perry Crewdson. Geoff Holloway was appointed as the 6th trustee at the Trust's first formal meeting and James Hall drew up the governing deed. Over the intervening 20 years there has been remarkably little change. I am particularly grateful to Rose who continues to serve as a trustee. In the interim, Jonathan Farnhill replaced Perry, whilst the other present trustees (Richard Treloar, Mary Hunt, Isabel Lincoln, Tess Papworth and I) have replaced others. I am very grateful to all of them for their time and effort over the years.

The Trust raises money through a combination of collection boxes distributed widely throughout the village, regular donations from standing orders, a collection box in the church and donations from occasional offices at St Mary's. In addition a number of successful fundraising events have been held. Over the years there have been concerts from the British Legion Brass Band, Ipswich Girls' choir, Woodbridge School Chamber Choir, Suffolk Constabulary male voice choir and a series of very successful performances by Jonathan Farnhill and the Horn Factory Jazz band. The Trust has produced postcards of the church, a history guidebook and more recently a number of very well regarded Christmas cards. In 2015 we hope to produce a calendar of scenes in and around Otley.

The success of the Trust's fundraising has allowed it to support a considerable number of projects over the years including timber treatment for deathwatch beetle, re-roofing of the chancel, re-leading the tower, re-building the vestry chimney, a cover for the clock drive mechanism, repairing the rotting west door, redecoration of the whole church interior, repairs to the windows and masonry in the porch, re-leading and re-glazing of many of the church windows, guards for the older windows and refurbishment of the clock faces. Work never ends and more recently, we have committed funds for repairs to the tower, the north porch buttresses, stone work around the west door and re-roofing of the south porch.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has raised £72,577 for the maintenance of St Mary's, a remarkable achievement for an innovative scheme in a small Suffolk village. I therefore thank all the past and present trustees who have worked so hard and continue to do so to raise funds for the upkeep of St Mary's, and everyone who has contributed so generously to the work of the Trust.

Ian Beaumont (Trust Chairman)

OTLEY PLAYERS

The Junior Otley Players present Guys and Dolls at Otley Village Hall. This is a fun musical with great songs including 'Sit Down

You're Rocking the Boat', 'Luck Be A Lady' and 'Bushel and a Peck'. Performances are on Friday 13th February at 7.15pm, and Saturday 14th February at 2.15pm and 7.15pm. Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children and are available from 735398. Please come and support the young people who have worked so hard to put this on!

OTLEY UNDER FIVES PRE-SCHOOL

Term began on 7th January with the children eager and ready for some new adventures and explorations. There is plenty of fun to be had as we celebrate the festivals of Chinese New Year (of the Sheep) and Valentine's Day, with lots of crafts, tasting new foods and learning about different cultures. We are delighted to welcome Rosie, Finley and Ella, who join us this term and we also welcome a new member of staff, Angela Peck. Following the success over the last couple of years of our 100 Club Lottery, we are planning to run this again for 2015 with 50% of the fund as prize money! New members are always welcome and the subscription is £12 a year per number and a member is eligible for inclusion at any time throughout the year. Each member is allocated a permanent number in a monthly draw, which takes place in Otley Village Stores at the end of the month and anyone interested in joining can contact Suzanne Howells on 785729 or Vanessa Osborne on 07973272185. There is lots of information on our website and Facebook page and if you would like to visit us or arrange a free trial session please telephone 07789 468853.

OTLEY BELLES

After our exceptionally busy pre-Christmas programme of entertaining we are having a well-earned rest before our January 'Christmas lunch' and embarking on the spring programme in February. Since September our entertaining has taken us to Stowmarket, Great Finboro', Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Ipswich several times, Woodbridge and Eye. Each venue and each audience is so different but we always seem to leave having got our audiences singing, playing the bells and raised both their and our spirits. A first for us this year was being invited to play a lunchtime

recital in Woodbridge Library in December. This was the last of fifteen monthly lunchtime concerts - always a 'full house' and we felt we had provided a suitably festive conclusion to this imaginative initiative organised by the very active Friends of Woodbridge Library. If you haven't visited the Library lately I would encourage you to do so. There is a lot going on there for all age groups and interests, a very user friendly place which now also houses the Tourist Information Bureau.

One of our ex bellringers, Hetty Berry, died recently at the great age of 103 in Ixworth having previously lived in Newlands. We were very pleased to have been asked by her granddaughter Julia and Geoff to play for her funeral in Otley Church. She loved music and the bells and when, well into her nineties, coming out with us entertaining would happily inform people that she was going to entertain 'the old folk' and was probably older than most of them!

Our charity this year has again been Macmillan to whom we have made our Christmas donation and it is our intention to "busk" in the spring, again for Macmillan, probably one lunchtime at Wyevale. We are also doing a bit of fundraising for ourselves as we need to replace one of our very heavy bell cases with two smaller more manageable ones; thanks to some generous donations we hope to reach our target by Easter.

Two of our team have moved house this Autumn, Ann Rose to Wortham near Diss, and Judith Guy to Brome near Eye but Ann returned to ring with us at the Library and Judith continues to 'commute' to be with us. We have also been delighted to welcome a new member – Jo Handley from Charsfield so "Here we are again, happy as can be, all good pals and Jolly Good Company."

Helen Jay

SWILLAND

In early January I am always amazed at the number of flowers that are out. I had camellias out before Christmas and now they are a

mass of pink flowers, growing in the open in soil they like. There is also a white one in bloom. The wintersweet has also been out since before Christmas and the scent from it has been wonderful. There are lots off snowdrops and aconites, also mahonia bealie, daphne, iris stylosa, two daffodils, roses still flowering, viburnum, and an odd crocus peeping through. It's is wonderful to see all these flowers in the middle of winter.

Our annual church meeting is on 1st March at 12 noon. All residents as well as those on the church electoral roll are very welcome to come. For some time we have had only one churchwarden - we need another please. Our PCC is just three - Brian Williams (churchwarden), Gill Reidy (secretary) and myself (treasurer). We should be delighted if anyone would like to join us. It is not very onerous - four meetings a year, when we also meet the other three PCCs, plus the annual meeting.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

1st February

Margo Barker

8th – 15th February

Ann Kent

22nd February – 29th March

No Flowers

RAINFALL – DECEMBER

December was a wet month in that we had small quantities of rain on a regular basis and then .90 inches in one day at then end of the month causing some flooding. The December rainfall still only came to 1.20 inches and the total for 2014 amounted to 26.26 inches which is slightly above average for Otley. We are told that 2014 was one of the wettest and warmest since records began. Plants began to grow exceedingly early in the spring with rains at just the right time to give good yields of both fruit and arable crops.

Russell Ling

OTLEY HALL RETREAT DAY PROGRAMME

Friday 6th March - Eilish Heath & head gardener Simon Nickson
Making a Retreatant's Garden - a day of prayer, discussion and creative gardening!

Friday 20th March - Fred Woods - an exploration of the Sermon on the Mount

Both days cost just £22 including all refreshments and lunch and run from 10am-4pm. Contact 890264 or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further information.

SUFFOLK SINGERS

With just a week to the first day of Spring, the SUFFOLK SINGERS will be “Serenading Spring” on Saturday 14 March at St Michael’s Church, Framlingham under their dynamic music director, Claire Weston. Music by Anerio, Bruckner, Byrd, Deruflé, Franck, Gjeilo, Goodall, Hutchings, Meador, Mendelssohn, Tallis and Whitacre is on the programme. The concert is at 7.30pm with tickets priced at £10 (including refreshments) and available from 635525 and also Hall Farm Butchers in Framlingham.

SUFFOLK FAMILY CARERS

Suffolk Family Carers is a local charity that provides information, support and guidance to family carers around Suffolk. We have been offering our services for over 25 years and one of the things we have learnt during that time is that people caring for another person at home don’t usually see themselves as a family carer. If you are such a person, you may just see it as part of being husband, wife, father, mother, daughter, son, friend etc. Because of this, it is easy to forget the importance of your own health and wellbeing, as all your physical and emotional effort and energy is spent on looking after someone else. You may feel that your own needs don’t matter, but in order to provide care and support you do need to keep your own batteries charged.

In 2015 Suffolk Family Carers will be working with our hospice colleagues in Suffolk to offer an information and support programme for those people caring for someone nearing the end of their life. There will be a series of five informal sessions that offer information and an opportunity to reflect and gain support from others in a

similar situation. Sessions will take place around the county. Their aim is to improve the family carer's own situation and that of the person they care for. If you would like to find out more or to book a free place please call Carly on 01473 835420 or e mail wellbeing@suffolkfamilycarers.org.

MIDNIGHT WALK:

Pirates needed to join the Midnight Walk crew!

Ahoy me hearties, St Elizabeth Hospice is on the lookout for pirates to join their crew for the Midnight Walk 2015. Dust off your eye patches and polish their cutlasses and join the pirate parade through Ipswich on Saturday 16th May 2015.

Walk or run round Ipswich Town centre, choosing from three routes which all start and finish at Ipswich Town Football Club; the five mile, eight mile, or the more challenging half marathon. The Midnight Walk is our biggest event of the year and we hope to see more men and women joining us for a fun night out – but also to raise money for your local hospice – and every penny raised from sponsorship really does make a difference to our patients and their families. This year, for the first time ever, all routes will poignantly pass the hospice in Foxhall Road, where every participant will have the opportunity to hang a personal tag on the tree of remembrance.

Sign up online now for just £15 at www.midnightwalkipswich.co.uk call 01473 707043 or email midnightwalk@stelizabethhospice.org.uk to request a paper form.

CO-OP WATERFRONT MUSIC SCHOOL

The music school is open to musicians of all ages and abilities and gives the opportunity to play as part of an ensemble. Sessions run at 11 Fore St., Ipswich every Saturday from 9am to 1.15pm with professional tutors. Private lessons can also be arranged. Concerts take place throughout the year. Contact the secretary (Christine Moulton, formerly of Ashbocking) on 01394 273290 or moult2chris@talktalk.net.

Smile Lines

With Valentine's Day in mind...

Marriage is....

- not always just a word; sometimes it is a sentence.
- a very good way to promote civilisation – according to Socrates, if you get a good partner you will be happy, if you get a bad one you will become a philosopher.
- the only permanent cure for love.

How do you define love?

A group of 4 to 8 year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca (8)

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy (4)

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl (5)

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy (6)

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri (4)

"Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny (7)

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily (8)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka (6) (We need a few million more like Nikka on this planet.)



SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught in parables, stories that explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeing, and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with 'new eyes'.



SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

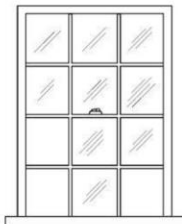
S P E C T A C L E S
L E C T E V I D Y C
G E A G L E O P E E
S W N A E P B S S N
E A K S V I D E O E
S T C L I C E L F O
S C O O S T G G R W
A H L O I U O G E E
G A M E N E U G O V

* clock * eyes * game * glasses *
goggles * lens * picture * scene
* spectacles * television * video *
view * watch



**What
gadget do
we use to
see
through a
wall?**

A window.



Optician: What can you see out of the window?

Patient: Only the sun.

Optician: How far do you want to see, then?

Optician: You need glasses.

Patient: But I'm wearing glasses.

Optician: Then I need glasses.

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